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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/529,365	06/13/2000	CHRISTOPH ESPEY	225/48700	8003
7590	03/27/2006		EXAMINER	
CROWELL & MORING, LLP INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP P.O. BOX 14300 WASHINGTON, DC 20044-4300			FOX, JOHN C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3753	

DATE MAILED: 03/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/529,365	ESPEY, CHRISTOPH
	Examiner John Fox	Art Unit 3753

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 March 2006.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 8-14 and 22-28 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10-14, 23, 25-26, 28 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 8-9, 24, 22 and 27 are is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

This action is responsive to the communication filed March 6, 2006.

Claims 1-7 and 15-21 have been cancelled.

Claims 10-14, 23, 25-26 and 28 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 C.F.R. 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species. Election of Species E was made without traverse in Paper No. 6.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 8-9, 24, 22 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Best et al in view of Ishiwata et al. Best et al show a valve between a high pressure pump and a sump which in Figure 3 is shown with an annular seating area bounded by a step, formed at the right most end of 33, and a tapered portion which is read as being configured to avoid cavitation. Best et al do not use a spring. Ishiwata et al show a biased open valve with spring 40. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used such a spring in the valve of best to assist fluid pressure in opening the valve.

Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The sharp edge between the cylindrical portion and the tapered portion can reasonably be termed a step. The tapered portion forms a smooth surface at an angle to the flow, much like the disclosed guide surface, and it is reasonable to conclude that it inherently avoids cavitation for the same reason the instant surface does. As to the combination with Ishiwata et al, the addition of a spring might be redundant but that does not make it nonobvious. A spring for biasing a valve is notoriously well known. The pressure biasing

of Best et al might or might not be effective and the use of a spring, as taught by Ishiwata et al, would ensure the biased operation.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Fox whose telephone number is 571-272-4912. The examiner can normally be reached on Increased Flextime.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Keasel Eric can be reached on 571-272-4929. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



John Fox
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3753